

The Storm Water Pollution Prevention Bulletin is prepared by the Storm Water Compliance Review Task Force to aid all projects and operations in maintaining compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements.

Entrance/ Outlet Tire Wash (CD29C)

One aspect of storm water pollution prevention that is often overlooked is the use of an entrance/outlet tire wash. This bulletin presents the proper implementation of a tire wash to prevent sediment tracking and help reduce the discharge of pollutants into the storm drain system.



Example of proper entrance/outlet tire wash. Note wash rack with rock filter underneath.

APPLICATION

An entrance/outlet tire wash (CD29C) should be considered on construction sites where there is high potential for tracking mud and dirt onto public roads by construction vehicles. The contractor should require that all employees', subcontractors', and other vehicles that leave the site with mud-caked tires and/or undercarriages, use the tire wash facility.

SPECIFICATIONS

Elements of proper tire wash installation:

- Incorporate with CD29A(2) – Stabilized Construction Entrance.
- Construct on level ground where possible.
- Place wash rack on a pad of coarse aggregate.
- Wash rack should handle any anticipated traffic loads.
- Allow room or construct a separate entrance without a tire wash for vehicles entering the construction area.
- Provide an adequate supply of wash water.
- Provide a drainage ditch, large enough to carry the runoff from the wash area to a sediment trapping device.

Improper installation or use of a tire wash can increase the potential for carrying mud and dirt from the construction site onto public roads.

CONSTRUCTION METHODS

A tire wash can be constructed in the field by fabricating a rack out of a series of parallel steel

rods or pipes on a pad of coarse aggregate. The wash rack must be able to withstand the weight of the vehicles passing over it. Pre-fabricated units may be purchased for the required loading conditions and installed at the site.

MAINTENANCE

The contractor must routinely inspect the tire wash and remove the accumulated sediment in the wash rack and/or sediment trap, and dispose of it at a designated disposal site. Any damage to the tire wash should be repaired immediately.



Example of improper tire wash procedure. Mud and silt being washed off directly onto a public road.

ADVANTAGES

An entrance/outlet tire wash provides several advantages:

- Controls sediment from being tracked onto public roads. Sediment that is tracked onto the road can easily find its way to drainage inlets especially if inlets are left unprotected for traffic safety reasons.
- Prevents any hazardous driving conditions that may be caused by tracked sediment on the public roads.
- By controlling sediment tracking, contractors can reduce the need for cleaning roads with sweepers and laborers.